

## OPINION 1046

DREPANIDIDAE CABANIS, 1847 (AVES) AND DREPANEIDAE  
GILL, 1847 (PISCES): PLACED ON OFFICIAL LIST OF  
FAMILY-GROUP NAMES IN ZOOLOGY

**RULING.**—(1) The request to use the plenary powers to protect Name No. 306 on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology (i.e. DREPANIDIDAE Gadow, 1891) is refused.

(2) Under the plenary powers it is ruled that the stem of the generic name *Drepane* Cuvier, 1831 (Pisces) for the purposes of Article 29 is DREPANE-.

(3) The generic name *Drepane* Cuvier, 1831 (gender: feminine), type-species of nominal genus, by subsequent designation by Jordan, 1917, *Chaetodon punctatus* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology (Name Number 2020).

(4) The specific name *punctatus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Chaetodon punctatus* (specific name of type-species of *Drepane* Cuvier, 1831) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology (Name Number 2562).

(5) The following family-group names are placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:

(a) DREPANIDIDAE Cabanis, 1847 (Aves) (correction, as a consequence of the Ruling given in (1) above, of entry No. 306 in the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology) (type-genus *Drepanis* Temminck, 1820) (Name Number 306);

(b) DREPANEIDAE Gill, 1872 (Pisces) (type-genus *Drepane* Cuvier, 1831) (Name Number 479).

(6) The following generic names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:

(a) *Drepanichthys* Bonaparte, 1831 (Name Number 2065),

(b) *Enixe* Gisl, 1848 (Name Number 2066), and

(c) *Harpochrus* Cantor, 1849 (Name Number 2067), all being junior objective synonyms of *Drepane* Cuvier, 1831.

(7) The following family-group names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology:

(a) DREPANINAE Cabanis, 1847 (an incorrect original spelling of DREPANIDIDAE Cabanis, 1847) (Name Number 467);

(b) DREPANIDAE Bonaparte, 1853 (an incorrect subsequent spelling of DREPANIDIDAE Cabanis, 1847) (Name Number 468);

(c) DREPANIDIDAE Gadow, 1891 (determined through the Ruling in (1) above to be a subsequent usage of DREPANIDIDAE Cabanis, 1847) (Name Number 469);

(d) DREPANIDAE Gill, 1872 (determined through the Ruling given under the plenary powers in (2) above to be an incorrect original spelling of DREPANEIDAE Gill, 1872) (Name Number 470).

[It is to be noted that names (a), (b) and (d) under (7) in the above Ruling are not only homonyms among themselves, but are all also junior homonyms of DREPANIDAE Boisdual, [Nov. 1828] (Lepidoptera) (Name No. 307 on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology).]

#### HISTORY OF THE CASE (Z.N.(S.) 1958)

The problem of the homonymy between the family-group names DREPANIDAE in Lepidoptera and DREPANIDAE in Pisces was first brought to the attention of the Commission by Dr. K. V. Lakshminarayana and Dr. K. V. Rama Rao (*Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, India*) in January 1971. They wrote in ignorance of the Commission's ruling in Opinion 610 concerning DREPANIDAE in Lepidoptera; and while correspondence was proceeding on that point, Dr. G. N. Kashin (*Moscow*) wrote to draw attention to a defect in that ruling affecting DREPANIDAE in Aves. Dr. Kashin's application was the first to be completed. It was sent to the printer on 8 July 1971 and was published on 8 December 1971 in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* 28 : 119-120. Public Notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the present case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the other prescribed serial publications (Constitution Art. 12b; *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 31 : 97) and to nine entomological serials.

In December 1971 Dr. Lemche wrote to suggest that the use of the plenary powers was required to set aside an entry in an Official List, and at the same time to urge that no action should ever be taken involving such entries. His comment was published on 30 November 1972 in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 29 : 111.

In October 1972, Dr. C. G. Gruchy (*National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Canada*) applied to the Commission for the removal of the homonymy between DREPANIDAE in Lepidoptera, Aves and Pisces—a triple problem, part of which had been covered in Opinion 610, and part broached (albeit incompletely) by Dr. Lakshminarayana and Dr. Rao. Dr. Gruchy's application was sent to the printer on 29 January 1973 and published on 6 July 1973 in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 30 : 35-36. In *Bull.* 30 : 138 the Secretary drew attention to the earlier uncompleted application by Dr. Lakshminarayana and Dr. Rao.

#### DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 8 November 1974 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Papers (74)18 and 19 on the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 28 : 120 and 30 : 36. The following note of explanation was sent out with the Voting Papers:

"Two quite separate sets of proposals are before the Commission for dealing with the homonymy between family-group names based on generic names beginning *Drepan-*. They are therefore presented in separate voting papers.

"First, there are proposals by Dr. Kashin (*Bull.* 28 : 119-20) for the technical correction of the entry for name No. 306 on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology (Opinion 610). This involves correcting the authorship and date of DREPANIDAE from "Gadow, 1891" to "Cabanis, 1847" with associated Official Index action on names published between those dates. Dr. Lemche (*Bull.* 29 : 111) asks for plenary powers to be used to protect the

existing Official List entry with, in consequence, a more extended list of names for addition to the Official Index.

"V.P. (74)18 deals with this matter and calls simply for a vote for or against the use of the plenary powers in connection with the entry for name No. 306 in the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology. An affirmative vote will be construed as a vote in favour of Dr. Lemche's proposals (*loc. cit.*, lines 15-26 only, *NOT* lines 5-9). A negative vote will be construed as a vote in favour of Dr. Kashin's proposals.

"Secondly, there are Dr. Gruchy's (and Dr. Lakshminarayana and Dr. Rao's) proposals (*Bull.* 30 : 35-6) concerning a further extension of the homonymy dealt with in Opinion 610—that is, the family-group name based on *Drepane* Cuvier, 1831 (Pisces). Dr. Gruchy asks for a ruling under the plenary powers that the stem of that name for the purposes of Article 29 should be DREPANE-, giving DREPANEIDAE. In a letter dated 7 January 1974 he draws the Commission's attention to the use of DREPANEIDAE for this taxon by Taylor, 1964, Fishes Arnhem Land, *Rec. Amer.-Austr. Exped. Arnhem Land*, vol. 4 : 231, as an argument in favour of his proposals.

"V.P. (74)19 deals with this other matter and calls simply for a vote for or against Dr. Gruchy's proposals.

"On a point of information, both Dr. Lakshminarayana & Dr. Rao and Dr. Gruchy give incorrect references to the name *Cryptosmilia luna* Cope. The correct reference is 1869, *Trans. amer. phil. Soc.* 13 : 401. However, no action is called for in respect of this name".

After receiving his Voting Papers, Dr. Eisenmann wrote to the Secretary to emphasize the importance to ornithologists of certain aspects of the case and to oppose Dr. Lemche's view. His letter was sent on 18 November 1974 to all members of the Commission with the following covering note by the Secretary:

(Secretary's covering note) "I have today received a letter on the subject of V.P. (74)18 from Dr. Eisenmann which I am circulating to you all at his request.

"The note circulated by Mrs. Green with V.P. (74)18 should make it clear that a vote against the use of the plenary powers will be a vote for Dr. Kashin and for Dr. Eisenmann.

"Dr. Lemche's comment in this case raised the general point of principle of the inviolability (or otherwise) of entries on Official Lists and Indexes. This general question has not yet been considered by the Commission or the Council. I therefore ask you to treat Dr. Eisenmann's letter, and the question put to you on V.P. (74)18, strictly on its merits, without prejudice to the general issue. The relevant passages in the Code are now under discussion in the Editorial Committee and the results of their deliberations will be put to you in due course.

"Any member of the Commission who has already sent in his vote on V.P. (74)18 and who wishes to change it should write to me, referring to Dr. Eisenmann's letter and this note. For this purpose, the period during which members may write to me to this effect will run for three months from the date of this letter, that is, until 18 February 1975."

(Dr. Eisenmann's letter): "The form of V.P. (74)18 emphasizes an oversight

on my part in overlooking Dr. Lemche's comment and counter-proposal (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 29 : 111) to Dr. Kashin's application (*Bull.* 28 : 119–20) to correct simply date and authorship of the family-group name DREPANIDIDAE. In my capacity as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the International Ornithological Congress and as Chairman of the American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Classification and Nomenclature (the family DREPANIDIDAE is exclusively Hawaiian), I should have submitted a comment in support of Dr. Kashin's application. May I request that voting be deferred until the Secretariat can circulate a copy of this letter, indicating why we feel that Dr. Kashin's proposal is highly desirable. I am fearful that by presenting the matter as a vote on Dr. Lemche's counter-proposal, rather than on Dr. Kashin's proposal, a majority of the Commission, with its understandable tendency to favour applications (presumably no application would be made did not a problem exist), is likely to vote in the affirmative—at least in the absence of the information regarding practice in ornithology here forwarded.

"I agree with Dr. Lemche that names on Official Lists should not be altered save in very exceptional cases, and I have urged that the Code be amended to give the status of nomen conservandum to a name placed on the Official List, which it apparently does not have under the present Code. However, date and authorship are not part of the name, and as nothing in the Code precludes replacement of a name on the Official List by a senior synonym, it is important that the Official List be easily corrected where it appears that the name on the List was of earlier date and authorship than listed—thus strengthening its status. This is particularly necessary to protect family-group names in ornithology, because prior to the Code in 1961, priority did not apply to such names, and not only were there no available synonymies for family-group names in ornithology (there are none yet), but it was not the custom to cite an author or date for a family-group name even in formal systematic works. Even today it is rarely done in ornithology. The literature of ornithology is so vast and scattered, and under the Code a family-group name is available (but to be amended) even when introduced without the conventional ending or with an erroneous stem, that finding the earliest date and author of a family-group name is a tedious and often difficult task that today very few ornithologists are able or willing to undertake. Yet determining the earliest date is important in view of the Code provision making priority the basic principle for such names and the lack of a provision giving names on the List automatic precedence over earlier synonyms not previously rejected.

"Dr. Lemche's proposal would have a very dangerous effect as a precedent and in this very case, while Dr. Kashin's is not only consistent with the Code and in accordance with the facts, but recognises the existing shortcomings in family-group name synonymies and strengthens the permanent validity of the name on the List by correctly calling attention to its earlier seniority. The name DREPANIDIDAE was put on the List as a result of an application by Dr. Dean Amadon (*American Museum of Natural History*), a specialist in this group, in order to avoid confusion with the family-name of a group of insects. The name was based on the genus *Drepanis*; the application was made before

the publication of the Code, and Dr. Amadon has told me that DREPANIDIDAE was credited to Gadow, 1891 because he was the first (known to Amadon) to use that exact spelling. The present Code, however, requires crediting the author and date to the first publication of the family-group name (even though the spelling differed) based on the same type-genus. There is no doubt that Dr. Kashin is correct that the name DREPANIDIDAE must be credited under the Code to Cabanis, 1847, who used DREPANINAE based on the same type-genus. In fact many other authors used similar family-group names long before Gadow. Dr. Lemche, being unfamiliar with the situation in ornithology, proposes by use of the plenary powers to fix the date and authorship as Gadow, 1891, and invalidate all the earlier synonymous usages of what, under the Code, is the same name applicable to the same taxon. This, far from strengthening the value of DREPANIDIDAE on the Official List, might well weaken it, for any different family-group name based on a different genus, if introduced before 1891, would have priority—thus requiring further application and action by the Commission to protect the name on the List.

"It should be borne in mind that because of the unavailability of adequate family-group name synonymies in ornithology (and I understand also for most vertebrate classes), listing on Official Lists of family-group names has usually been incidental to solution of some other problem, and the bibliographic research done in regard to the family-group name was secondary—especially because prior to the Code, usage rather than priority governed such names. Now that priority is an important consideration, improving the status of names on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology, as Dr. Kashin has been doing by his several applications, is helpful. The ornithological committees of which I am chairman strongly favour usage and preservation of established names; they also favour supporting such names by crediting them to the earliest author who under the Code introduced the name in the family-group sense. Thus, for example, we supported Dr. Kashin's proposal to change the authorship and date of the family-group name THRAUPIDAE (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 29 : 197, 1972) and would support his new proposal giving earlier authorship and date to LORIIDAE (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 30 : 57, 1973).

"Flexibility on these matters of detail by allowing correction is essential, especially in regard to family-group names, if we wish to encourage use of the Code provisions for validating such names in current use. The dates and authorships given to the Commission are inevitably tentative. What is important is to preserve *the name*.

"Let me add that Dr. Amadon, whose application was responsible for crediting Gadow with DREPANIDIDAE, has authorised me to say that he favours Dr. Kashin's application to change the date and authorship of the name to Cabanis, 1847. The matter of date is so important that I believe the Commission should realise that adopting Dr. Lemche's proposal would create problems that I do not think he realised."

(No communication was received by the Secretariat as a result of the circulation of Dr. Eisenmann's letter with the Secretary's covering note.)

At the close of the Voting Period on 8 February 1975, the state of the



voting on Voting Paper (74)18 was as follows:

Affirmative votes—six (6), received in the following order: Vokes, Lemche, Alvarado, Binder, Ride, Habe

Negative votes—fifteen (15), received in the following order: Melville, Holthuis, Simpson, Willink, Eisenmann, Rohdendorf, Mayr, Tortonese, Dupuis, Starobogatov, Corliss, Bayer, Nye, Heppell, Bernardi

Late Affirmative votes—one (1): Erben

Abstention—one (1): Sabrosky

On Leave of Absence—one (1): Brinck

Voting Paper not returned—one (1): Kraus.

The following comments were made by members of the Commission in returning their votes:

*Dr. R. Alvarado:* I strongly support the view of Dr. Lemche about the names on the Official List. Dr. Lemche's proposals versus the facts argued by Dr. Eisenmann's letter are in my opinion the correct ones.

*Dr. Eisenmann:* I strongly favour Dr. Kashin's proposal to change the date and authorship of the family-group name DREPANIDIDAE for the reasons given in my letter to the Secretary.

*Dr. Mayr:* Unfortunately Dr. Lemche's comments are quite misleading as is in part pointed out in Dr. Eisenmann's letter. Kashin's proposal does not involve a change of names on the Official List, only of author and date.

*Dr. Sabrosky:* I cannot vote either way. I favour mere *correction* of entries by a Direction, on such matters as author and date where these do not change the basic facts of the name and its use, which was the purpose of the original Opinion. We should be able to correct such errors of fact without undergoing the 'agony and the ecstasy' of plenary powers. I am completely opposed to stuffing Official Indexes with all the variant spellings of names.

*Dr. Corliss:* Commissioner Eisenmann has rightly stressed the need to correct data on family-group names in such cases as this, thus protecting the name in a justifiable manner.

*Dr. Bayer:* I heartily agree in principle with Dr. Lemche's opinion regarding names placed on the Official Lists and Indexes, which will lose their effectiveness if names can be deleted from them almost at whim. Nevertheless, the arguments presented by Dr. Kashin and further elucidated in Dr. Eisenmann's letter convince me that in this case the application should be approved. However, I believe that the Commission should forthwith consider modifications in the Code which would provide for situations such as this and at the same time protect the integrity of the Official Lists and Indexes.

*Dr. Heppell:* I cannot agree with Dr. Lemche that an entry on the Official List, even when acknowledged to be factually wrong, must be preserved. I believe that the Official Lists have authority only when they present facts that are either true in essence or, where the plenary powers have been used, that have been deemed to be true. If an incorrect entry has been made on an Official List because of incorrect or incomplete information available to the Commission at the time of the publication of the relevant Opinion it should be automatically corrected if the new information subsequently brought to light does not materially affect the consequences of the entry, as in the present case.

Moreover, names placed on the Official Lists without the use of the plenary powers are not, at present, protected against earlier available names nor earlier uses of the same names; it would, therefore, be proper and correct to use DREPANIDIDAE Cabanis, 1847, despite the existence of DREPANIDIDAE Gadow, 1891, on the Official List of Family-Group Names.

*M. Bernardi*: Je ne vois pas qu'il faut user des pleins pouvoirs pour protéger les Listes Officielles.

At the close of the Voting Period on 8 February 1975, the state of the voting on Voting Paper (74)19 was as follows:

Affirmative votes—twenty-one (21), received in the following order: Melville, Vokes, Holthuis, Lemche, Simpson, Alvarado, Willink, Eisenmann, Rohdendorf, Sabrosky, Tortonese, Dupuis, Starobogatov, Binder, Corliss, Bayer, Nye, Heppell, Ride, Bernardi, Habe

Negative votes—none (0)

Late Affirmative vote—one (1): Erben

Abstention—one (1): Mayr

Leave of Absence—one (1): Brinck

Voting Paper not returned—two (2): Kraus, Munroe.

The following comments were made by members of the Commission in returning their votes:

*Dr. Mayr*: I cannot vote on this application since not a word is said in it how the proposal would affect previous usage. The wording of the application would not preclude the possibility that many authors in the past had rejected the name DREPANIDAE for a group of fishes for the sake of homonymy and adopted another family name instead. In short, the application is singularly uninformative as far as previous usage in ichthyology is concerned.

#### ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for names placed on the Official Lists and Indexes by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:

*Drepane* Cuvier, G., 1831, in Cuvier, G. and Valenciennes, A., *Hist. nat. Poissons*, vol. 7 : 132

DREPANEIDAE Gill, 1872, *Smiths. misc. Coll.*, 1874, 11 (247) : 8

*Drepanichthys* Bonaparte, 1831, *Giorn. Acad. Sci. Lett. Arti.* 52 : 172

DREPANIDAE Bonaparte, 1853, *Compte rendu Séances Acad. Sci. Paris* 37 (18) : 644

DREPANIDAE Gill, 1872, *Smiths. misc. Coll.*, 1874, 11 (247) : 8

DREPANIDIDAE Cabanis, J., 1847, *Archiv für Naturges.* 1 : 325

DREPANIDIDAE Gadow, 1891, in Wilson, S. B., and Evans, A. H., *Aves Hawaiianes* (2) : 235

DREPANINAE Cabanis, J., 1847, *Archiv für Naturges.* 1 : 325

*Enixe* Gisl, 1848, *Naturg. Thierr. höhere Schulen* : 1X [not seen]

*Harpochris* Cantor, 1849, *Journ. roy. asiat. Soc. Bengal* 18 : 1144

*punctatus*, *Chaetodon*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* ed. 10, vol. 1 : 273

The following is the original reference to a designation of type-species for a nominal genus accepted in the present Opinion:

of *Chaetodon punctatus* Linnaeus, 1758 for *Drepane* Cuvier, 1831, by subsequent designation by Jordan, 1917, *Genera of Fishes* vol. 1 : 136

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on Voting Papers (74)18 and 19 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in those Voting Papers have been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1046.

R. V. MELVILLE  
*Secretary*

*International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*

*London*

*19 September 1975*